

# *Sutton-Smith Doctoral Award 2019*



## *Hinekura Smith* *University of Auckland*

Hinekura Smith's thesis, 'Whatuora-Whatu kākahu and living as Maori women' demonstrates very strong and clear implications for New Zealand education and for Indigenous education. Smith discusses the notion of 'living as Māori' through the sharing of stories by Māori women as they weave whatu kākahu.

In bringing to the foreground important knowledge for and about Māori women, a robust breadth and depth of knowledge about the impact of colonisation on Māori women and Māori women's knowledge is demonstrated. Through whatu wānanga, the women are brought together through their weaving and, in a safe environment reclaim and restore Māori women's knowledge.

The unique gathering of data through journal writing coupled with weaving makes a strong contribution to new knowledge about Indigenous research methods and methodology. One examiner describes how Smith's thesis, "contributes knowledge to multiple fields namely Māori Studies, Indigenous education and Feminist and Indigenous research methods".

Smith provides a clear and critical analysis of relevant literature as well as an excellent bringing together of 'living-as Māori-theory with Mana Wahine theory' and in doing so demonstrates excellent knowledge and a notable contribution to educational theory. The thesis has the possibility of impacting on educational leaders and teachers in Aotearoa who wish to create spaces for girls to experience what it means to live as Māori women. It can also contribute to Indigenous methodologies and knowledges.